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COTTON GRADE AND STAPLE REPORTS FOR WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 14

Ginning in the states of the Memphis District is well along toward a final figure, with the exception of Tennessee and Missouri. From these states considerable quantities of samples of bollie and snapped cotton are still being received. Some high grade samples are being received out of December ginnings from several states but they represent picked cotton that has been stored for some time prior to ginning. The crop is so nearly harvested and ginned that too few samples are being received on which to base a reliable estimate of the late ginnings and from time to time reports on various soil districts are being discontinued. Also as ginning nears completion, reports on different states will be discontinued. The last weekly report for the season for the state of Mississippi was released today, applicable to the cotton ginned in the week ending December 14th.

Mississippi

At this time when practically all cotton has been ginned in Mississippi and the quality of this year's cotton is known, it is interesting to draw a few comparisons with the grade and staple of the previous crop.

Extra White Standards were revised effective August 10, 1933 and therefore proportions of this year's crop and that of 1932 are only roughly comparable. There is a marked difference, however, in the amount of Spotted and Yellow Tinged cotton in this year's crop and that of last year. In the state one year ago 19.6 percent of the crop had been classed on these two standards, while this year, to date, only 9.2 percent has conformed to the same standards. These differences are, of course, attributable chiefly to seasonal differences and to differences in insect damage.

The proportions of cotton produced each season, conforming to various staple standards, reflect very directly the choice exercised by the planter in selecting varieties and good seed. There is less cotton in the state this year than last which is shorter than 7/8 of an inch; 1.2 percent for last year and .9 percent this year. There was 12.4 percent 7/8 inch cotton last year and 8.9 this; 15.7 percent 15/16 inch compared with 11.4 this; 14.6 percent 1 inch compared with 11.3 this and 20.9 percent 1-1/16 compared with 13.9 this. There has been a very much greater proportion of cotton 1-1/8 inches and longer this season than last; 35.2 compared with 53.6 this year. Within Soil Districts there has been a distinct increase in the Delta on long staples, 68.5 percent being 1-1/8 inch and longer a year ago and 86.0 percent to date this year; in the Brown Loam Belt the increase in the same group has been from 10.4 percent last year to 27.1 percent this; in the eastern hill districts there is almost 10 percent more 15/16 and 1 inch staple this season than last.

Arkansas

Receipt of samples from only two districts in Arkansas have been large enough this week for use in estimating the quality of the cotton ginned; viz., the Southern Ozarks and the Mississippi Bottoms. A very large proportion of the samples from both districts have been Spotted and Yellow Tinged; 75.0 percent in the first district named and 30.0 in the last. Staple lengths have been materially shorter during the week in the Southern Ozarks than for the season but in the Mississippi Bottoms they have been close to normal for the year.

(Over)

Tennessee

During the week almost 41.0 percent of samples received has been classed on Spotted and Yellow Tinged Color Standards contrasted with 9.7 percent for the season. Very little cotton is being found now that is as high as Middling White in grade. The proportion of Spotted and Yellow Tinged cotton was highest in District Four where 65.4 percent is of this color description. Staple lengths are shorter than the season's average but there has been no radical change in any length. For tenderability on Future Contracts 9.3 has been too short during the week and 3.1 percent for the season to date.

Missouri

The proportion of Spotted and Yellow Tinged Cotton from Missouri has been large for the season, 20.4 percent, but is larger still for the week 35.8 percent. Practically no samples have been received this week that were White Middling or better in grade. There were high percentages of untenderable cotton ginned in the state during the week; 67.5 percent of the samples received being so designated. Much of the cotton now being ginned in this state has been pulled with the bolls rather than picked out of them and is consequently very full of trash and shale. Exposure in the field before picking has not only resulted in deteriorated grades but weak and wasty staple.